

1 Amendment "C" to Accompany Request for Continued Examination

2 Please amend claims 37, 38 and 54 as follows, and cancel claim 55 without
3 prejudice:

4
5 Claims 1-36 (cancelled).

6
7 Claim 37 (Currently amended). A method of fabricating a subterranean structure,
8 comprising:

9 excavating soil to form a downward sloping ramp;
10 forming a concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp;
11 continuing to excavate soil to extend the downward sloping ramp to a location
12 under the concrete slab;

13 continuing to form the concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp so that a
14 subterranean structure is formed having an essentially continuous concrete slab with
15 a first portion which is above and spaced-apart from a second portion; and

16 prior to the excavating, driving ~~sheet piling~~ plural sheet piles to define an inner
17 perimeter and an outer perimeter for the continuous concrete slab to thereby place
18 the first and second portions in general vertical alignment with one another.

19
20 Claim 38 (Currently amended). The method of claim 37, and further comprising:

21 driving ~~sheet piling~~ plural sheet piles downward from the second portion to
22 further define the inner and outer perimeters;

23 continuing to excavate soil to extend the downward sloping ramp to a location
24 under the second portion of the concrete slab; and

25 continuing to form the concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp so that
the essentially continuous concrete slab has a third portion which is below and
spaced-apart from the second portion.

1 Claim 39 (previously presented). The method of claim 37, and wherein the soil is
2 excavated using a water jetting process.

3
4 Claim 40 (previously presented). The method of claim 37, and wherein the second
5 portion of the concrete slab is generally in alignment with the first portion of the
6 concrete slab, and the first and second portions are defined by a continuous outer
7 perimeter and a continuous inner perimeter, the method further comprising joining
8 the first and second portions with a wall element at one of the inner or outer
9 perimeters.

10
11 Claim 41 (previously presented). The method of claim 40, and wherein the wall
12 element is a first wall element, the method further comprising joining the first and
13 second portions with a second wall element at the other of the inner or outer
14 perimeters.

15
16 Claim 42 (previously presented). The method of claim 41, and wherein the inner
17 perimeter defines a closed inner area of the subterranean structure, the method
18 further comprising excavating soil out of the closed inner area.

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20 Claim 43 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, and further comprising
21 placing a top over the closed inner area.

22
23 Claim 44 (previously presented). The method of claim 37, and further comprising
24 forming generally aligned holes in the first and second portions, and removing
25 excavated soil by passing it upwards through the generally aligned holes.

1 Claim 45 (previously presented). The method of claim 44, and further comprising:
2 placing a caisson liner through the generally aligned holes to define a caisson
3 between the first and second portions of the essentially continuous concrete slab;
4 and
5 filling the space between the first and second portions outside of the caisson
6 with a fill material.

7
8 Claim 46 (previously presented). A method of fabricating a subterranean structure,
9 comprising:

10 excavating soil to form a downward sloping ramp;
11 forming a concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp;
12 continuing to excavate soil to extend the downward sloping ramp to a location
13 under the concrete slab;
14 continuing to form the concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp so that a
15 subterranean structure is formed having an essentially continuous concrete slab with
16 a first portion which is above and spaced-apart from a second portion; and
17 forming generally aligned holes in the first and second portions, and removing
18 excavated soil by passing it upwards through the generally aligned holes.

19
20 Claim 47 (previously presented). The method of claim 46, and further comprising:
21 placing a caisson liner through the generally aligned holes to define a caisson
22 between the first and second portions of the essentially continuous concrete slab;
23 and
24 filling the space between the first and second portions outside of the caisson
25 with a fill material.

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1 Claim 48 (previously presented). The method of claim 46, and wherein the soil is
2 excavated using a water jetting process.

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4 Claim 49 (previously presented). The method of claim 46, and wherein the second
5 portion of the concrete slab is generally in alignment with the first portion of the
6 concrete slab, and the first and second portions are defined by a continuous outer
7 perimeter and a continuous inner perimeter, the method further comprising joining
8 the first and second portions with a wall element at one of the inner or outer
9 perimeters.

10
11 Claim 50 (previously presented). The method of claim 49, and wherein the wall
12 element is a first wall element, the method further comprising joining the first and
13 second portions with a second wall element at the other of the inner or outer
14 perimeters.

15
16 Claim 51 (previously presented). The method of claim 50, and wherein the inner
17 perimeter defines a closed inner area of the subterranean structure, the method
18 further comprising excavating soil out of the closed inner area.

19
20 Claim 52 (previously presented). The method of claim 51, and further comprising
21 placing a top over the closed inner area.

22
23 Claim 53 (previously presented). The method of claim 46, and wherein the concrete
24 slab defines a plurality of concrete flights defined by an inner perimeter and an outer
25 perimeter, the method further comprising attaching wall panels to at least one of the
inner perimeter or the outer perimeter of the concrete slab while forming a roof over
the concrete slab.

1 Claim 54 (currently amended). A method of fabricating a subterranean structure,
2 comprising:

3 excavating soil to form a downward sloping ramp;
4 forming a concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp;
5 continuing to excavate soil to extend the downward sloping ramp to a location
6 under the concrete slab; and

7 continuing to form the concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp so that a
8 subterranean structure is formed having an essentially continuous concrete slab with
9 a first portion which is above and spaced-apart from a second portion, wherein the
10 second portion of the concrete slab is generally in alignment with the first portion of
11 the concrete slab, and wherein the first and second portions are defined by a
12 continuous outer perimeter and a continuous inner perimeter, and;

13 ~~wherein no wall element of the subterranean structure is provided until after at~~
14 ~~least some of the~~ second portion of the concrete slab has been formed, providing a
15 wall element to join the first and second portions of the concrete slab at one of the
16 inner or outer perimeters.

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18 Claim 55 (cancelled).

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20 Claim 56 (currently amended). The method of claim ~~[[55]]~~ 54, and wherein the wall
21 element is formed using at least one of cast concrete, or sprayed concrete.

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23 (Continued on next page.)
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1 Claim 57 (currently amended). The method of claim 54 wherein the wall element is
2 a first wall element, the method further comprising:

3 joining the first and second portions of the concrete slab with ~~[[a]]~~ the first wall
4 element at the inner perimeter; and

5 joining the first and second portions of the concrete slab with a second wall
6 element at the outer perimeter, wherein the first wall element and the second wall
7 element are not provided until after the first and second portions of the concrete slab
8 have been formed.

9
10 Claim 58 (previously presented). The method of claim 57, wherein:

11 the first wall element defines at least a portion of an inner caisson; and

12 the second wall element defines at least a portion of an outer caisson.

13
14 Claim 59 (previously presented). The method of claim 57, wherein at least one of
15 the first and second wall elements is formed using at least one of cast concrete, or
16 sprayed concrete.

17
18 Claim 60 (previously presented). The method of claim 57, and wherein the inner
19 perimeter defines a closed inner area of the subterranean structure, the method
20 further comprising excavating soil out of the closed inner area.

21
22 Claim 61 (previously presented). The method of claim 60, and further comprising
23 placing a top over the closed inner area.

24
25 Claim 62 (previously presented). The method of claim 54, and further comprising
forming generally aligned holes in the first and second portions, and removing
excavated soil by passing it upwards through the generally aligned holes.

1 Claim 63 (previously presented). The method of claim 62, and further comprising:
2 placing a caisson liner through the generally aligned holes to define a caisson
3 between the first and second portions of the essentially continuous concrete slab;
4 and
5 filling the space between the first and second portions outside of the caisson
6 with a fill material.

7
8 Claim 64 (previously presented). The method of claim 54, and wherein the soil is
9 excavated using a water jetting process.

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11 Claim 65 (previously presented). The method of claim 54, and further comprising:
12 continuing to excavate soil to extend the downward sloping ramp to a location
13 under the second portion of the concrete slab; and
14 continuing to form the concrete slab on the downward sloping ramp so that
15 the essentially continuous concrete slab has a third portion which is below and
16 spaced-apart from the second portion.

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19 (End of Amendment "C".)

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